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DATE DISTR. 10 April 1952

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

1. Numerous discussions took place between the Berlin Trustee Office (Treuhandsstelle) and Josef Orlopp, chief of the DDR Main Department for Internal Trade, which led to the understanding on 22 January 1952 that the Berlin agreement on interzonal trade would take effect as of 1 February 1952.
2. According to the Berlin agreement, lignite from the DDR is to be exchanged for phosphate and anthracite from West Germany. At the same time, West German deliveries of iron and steel to the Russian Zone, in accordance with the Duesseldorf contract, would begin. The space of time allowed during which deliveries of iron and steel may be made and which was determined by the Duesseldorf agreement may be shortened. Originally the quantities agreed upon were to be made available to the Russian Zone authorities over a period of nine months. According to the latest agreements these quantities will be delivered within a period of six to seven months. A written guarantee of free access to Berlin was not received from the Russian Zone authorities at this time. Only a de facto declaration would be made at the time of the resumption of interzonal trade that Berlin traffic would not be disturbed and that discussions among German officials concerning Berlin traffic could be entered upon at any time.
3. Despite the announcement by the Treuhandsstelle that interzonal trade had been completely halted after October 1951, it has been revealed that such trade continued. On the basis of licenses (Global-Genehmigungen) issued by the Berlin Senate, monthly deliveries of up to a value of one and one-half million westmarks have been made. On the other hand, the Russian Zone has made deliveries to West Germany valued at about eight million westmarks.
4. "Global-Genehmigungen" were issued to interzonal traders whose transactions did not exceed 5,000 westmarks. Berlin city district offices were also authorized to issue interzonal trade licenses but only for transactions which did not exceed 1,000 westmarks.

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5. The opportunities offered by this system were . . . used extensively. These transactions were not mentioned in official circles. When inquiries were made concerning this trade, it was described as small border trade. Trade along the same lines was also carried on after October 1951 between the individual West German states and the Russian Zone. It is not known how high the figures were for the various states.

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